

## County Profile: Atlantic

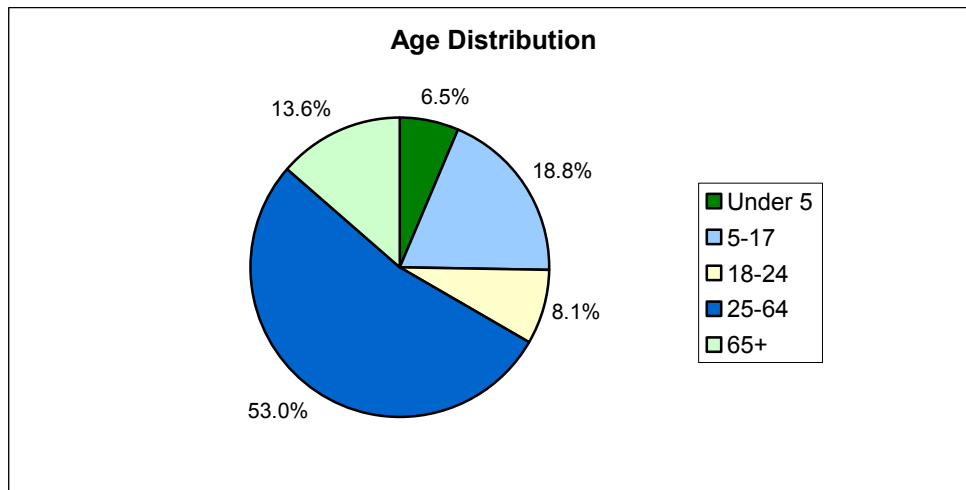


### General Demographics

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 252,552 individuals reside in Atlantic County's 23 municipalities. These individuals are spread out over a land area of 561.07 square miles, which translates into a population density of 450.1 persons per square mile. This makes Atlantic County the 15<sup>th</sup> most populous of the state's 21 counties.

At 12.6%, Atlantic County grew more from 1990 to 2000 than all but three other counties. Most municipalities experienced growth, including Atlantic City, which increased by 6.7% (total 2000 population – 40,517) and Egg Harbor (total 2000 population – 30,726) and Galloway townships (total 2000 population – 31,209), which increased by one-fourth (25.2%) and one-third (33.8%) respectively. These three communities represent 40.6% of the county's population.

Atlantic County has 63,855 children under the age of 18. They comprise 25.3% of the county's total population and 3.1% of the state's child population. Approximately 61% of Atlantic County residents are of working age (18 through 64), and 13.6% are 65 years and older. In its age distribution, Atlantic County closely resembles the state as a whole.



## ***Child Welfare***

Atlantic County's portion of statewide child abuse and neglect referrals resembles the proportion of children residing in the county. While 3.1% of all children in New Jersey reside in Atlantic County, 3.4%, or 1,298 of the child abuse and neglect referrals are generated there. The patterns of abuse and neglect differ only slightly from the state pattern.

### **Child Abuse and Neglect Referrals in 2001**

	Atlantic County		New Jersey	
	N	%	N	%
Physical abuse	455	35.1	12,382	32.0
Emotional abuse	4	0.3	330	0.9
Sexual	95	7.3	2,179	5.6
Neglect	682	52.5	22,099	57.1
Multiple types	62	4.8	1,716	4.4
<i>Total</i>	1,298	---	38,706	---
Substantiated rate per 1,000 children	4.5	---	4.0	---
Percent substantiated	22.0	---	21.8	---

In the Atlantic County District Office, the active DYFS caseload is 1,982 children and 1,054 families. There are 218 in-state foster homes in Atlantic County. There are 314 Atlantic County children in foster care, which is 4.0% of the 7,807 children in foster care in New Jersey and slightly more than the percentage of children residing in this county. Of the Atlantic County children in foster care, 41.1% reside in a different county than their family, which is similar to the out-of-county statewide average of 44.6%.

From 1998 to 2002, eight children in Atlantic County died as a result of abuse and neglect out of a statewide total of 123. Four of the families of these children had an open/active case with DYFS at the time of their death. The number of all infants who died in Atlantic County in 2000 was 36, 5% of the 723 infant deaths occurring in the state. The infant mortality rate of 10.5 deaths under the age of 1 per 1,000 live births was substantially more than the statewide rate of 6.3.

## ***Child Welfare Outcome Measures***

Information on various child welfare outcomes for Atlantic County is presented in the following table. The recurrence of maltreatment in foster care is well below the national standard (2.5% vs. 6.1%). However, the incidence of abuse and neglect in foster care is above the national standard (1.78% vs. .57%). A smaller percentage of children are reunified with a parent or caretaker within 12 months (62%) compared to the national standard (76.2%). Compared to the national standard of 8.6%, fewer children in foster care in Atlantic County re-enter care within 12 months of a prior placement.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See definitions that follow for detailed descriptions of the categories presented in this table.

## 2001 Child Welfare Outcome Measures by County

	Atlantic County	State	National Standard
Recurrence of maltreatment	2.5%	6.4%	6.1% or less
A/N incidence in foster care	1.78%	.78%	.57% or less
Reunify within 12 months without increasing re-entry	62.0%	59.5%	76.2% or more
Re-enter care within 12 months	7.7%	8.2%	8.6% or less
Reduce time in foster care to adoption	18.8%	16.3%	32.0% or more
Increase placement stability	89.1%	86.2%	86.7% or more

Note. Data supplied by DYFS

### Definitions

**Reduce recurrence of maltreatment** – of children who were victims of substantiated or indicated child abuse and/or neglect during the first six months of the reporting period, the percentage who had another substantiated or indicated report within a six-month period.

**A/N incidence in foster care** – of children who were in foster care during the reporting period, the percentage that was the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff member.

**Reunify within 12 months without increasing re-entry** – of children reunified with parents or caretakers at time of discharge from foster care, the percentage reunified within 12 months.

**Re-enter care within 12 months** – of children who entered foster care during the reporting period, the percentage that re-entered care within 12 months of leaving foster care episode.

**Reduce time in foster care to adoption** – of all children who exited foster care to adoption, the percentage who exited within 24 months.

**Increase placement stability** – of all children who had been in foster care less than 12 months, the percentage who had no more than two placement settings during that time period.

## **Data Sources**

DYFS Approved Foster Homes File, 8/4/03  
DYFS Caseload Activity Report (DAR-SISM-5), 8/1/03  
DYFS, Child Abuse and Neglect in New Jersey Statistical Report for 2000  
DYFS Child Abuse and Neglect in New Jersey Statistical Report for 2001  
DYFS Foster Care File Extract, 6/6/03  
DYFS Statewide Summary of Foster Homes (DAR-PCISM-1), 7/4/03  
NJ Substantiated Abuse and Neglect Child Fatality Analysis for 1998-2002, July 2003  
U.S. Census Bureau, Census 1990  
U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Redistricting Data Summary File, Population for the Counties and Municipalities in New Jersey: 1990 and 2000 (PL1)  
U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 1, Geographic Comparison Table, Age and Sex (GCT-P5)  
U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 1, Geographic Comparison Table, Population, Housing Units, Area and Density (GCT-PH1-R)  
U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 1, Quick Table, QT-P2.  
U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Demographic Profiles, Profile of General Demographic Characteristics (DP-1)

2/17/04